



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

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# AU Newsmakers

## April 24 – May 1, 2015

Prepared by University Communications

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### Top Story

#### Baltimore Unrest Raises More Questions than Answers

Foreign and domestic media called on American University experts to analyze and discuss the volatility in Baltimore this week as peaceful protests surrounding the death of Freddie Gray in police custody turned violent. AU experts also discussed how events are creating an opening to discuss larger societal injustices from community-police relations to employment and education shortcomings in underserved communities.



International service associate professor **Cathy Schneider** discussed the issue of police tactics and the history of riots from as recently as Ferguson to the 1960s for several outlets including [WRC-NBC4](#), [BBC World Service](#), [CCTV](#), and [McClatchy](#). **Schneider** emphasized that calming the situation is a responsibility of politicians, police, and leaders in the community so that the community can feel confident that an investigation and justice will prevail. (4/27- 5/1) \*BBC link unavailable



For [Associated Press](#), Metropolitan Policy Center director **Derek Hyra** explained that banks and investors are reluctant to make loans to small businesses located in riot-torn areas. **Hyra** added “It takes a long time in people's collective memory to remember these are vibrant, safe communities worth investing in.” (4/30)

**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.** For the [Wall Street Journal](#), Washington College of Law professor **William Yeomans** explained the limits of federal jurisdiction in Baltimore. **Yeomans** said federal investigations can highlight best practices for police departments but implementing and adopting them is another issue. (4/29)



[Marketplace](#) spoke to public communication professor **Pilar Mckay** about the key role social media played in communicating to the public during the unrest in Baltimore. (4/29)



Journalism division director **John Watson** spoke to [WUSA-CBS9](#) about the meaning of the word “thug” to describe violent Baltimore protestors. (4/29)



International service professor **Clarence Lusane** appeared on [RT TV](#) to discuss the aftermath in Baltimore. **Lusane** explained the crisis is not only the result of poor community-police relations but part of larger problems centering on employment, education, and empowerment. (4/29)

## Faculty Authors

### **Police Abuse Is a Problem Across Globe**

**The Philadelphia Inquirer** In her [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) op-ed, international service faculty fellow **Linda Rabben** reflected on how her view of police, tactics and abuses were shaped from early memories in Philadelphia through her later research in Brazil. **Rabben** argued that police reform can be found looking abroad. She explained that “impunity for abusive and murderous police is not only a U.S. problem; it is a human-rights problem that governments, reformers, and civil society struggle to address in many countries.” (4/28)

### **Why is America Celebrating the Beating of a Black Child?**

**The Washington Post** History lecturer **Stacey Patton** wrote an op-ed for [Washington Post](#) about the viral video of the mother who grabbed her child off the streets of Baltimore during the unrest. (4/29)

## Additional Features

### **Obesity May Hold Back America’s Kids at School**

**CBS NEWS** In a feature for [CBS News](#), School of Education, Teaching and Health dean **Sarah Irvine Belson** and associate dean **Stacey Snelling** discussed the links between obesity in kids and academic performance. **Snelling** and **Irvine Belson** talked about results from their recent research that tracked 77,000 students where students who reported getting higher grades in school also tended to have higher levels of physical activity. (4/27)

### **Nifty Fifty Podcast: Dr. Matthew Hartings on the Chemistry of Cooking**

**S<sup>b</sup> ScienceBlogs™** In a podcast posted on [ScienceBlogs](#), assistant professor of chemistry **Matthew Hartings** discussed the science behind making ice cream and the chemistry behind cooking. **Hartings** presented on the topic to students at Holy Cross School in Garret Park, Md., as part of the USA Science & Engineering Festival’s Nifty Fifty Program. (4/24)

### **AU Enlists Ex-2024 Bid Official to Lead Capital Business Initiative**

**WASHINGTON BUSINESS JOURNAL** [Washington Business Journal](#) profiled **Bob Sweeney’s** new appointment as Kogod School of Business special assistant to the dean to lead its *Business in the Capital* initiative. The Initiative will establish Kogod as a source for local business research and expertise. **Sweeney** joins Kogod from Washington 2024, where he led the D.C. effort to bid for the Olympic Games in 2024. He has 25 years of public and corporate leadership, with a particular focus on the economic development and marketing. (4/29)

## Expertise

### What Happens When a Man Takes Over Role of First Lady?

**The Washington Post**

Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies executive-in-residence **Anita McBride** spoke to the [Washington Post](#) about how men have adjusted to serving as the first spouse in state capitals. **McBride** explained the role of first spouse is fluid and adjusts to societal trends. (4/24)

### Obama Launches 2,800 Strikes on Iraq, Syria Without Congressional Approval

**The Washington Times**

[Washington Times](#) covered a Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies' panel on the Obama administration's use of military force featuring international service associate professor **Shoon Murray** and assistant professor of government **Chris Edelson**. **Murray** discussed the lack of authorization to act from Congress and **Edelson** explained the failure for Congress to use its Constitutional checks and balances to limit executive power. (4/27)

### Japan Taps Lobbyists to Bolster U.S. Ties

**ROLL CALL**

For [Roll Call](#), Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies director **James Thurber** explained that foreign government embassies are not as well networked as K Street lobbyists to bring people together behind issues. (4/27)

### WalletHub Quiz Puts Your Money Know-How to the Test

**Chicago Tribune**

[Chicago Tribune](#) spoke to Kogod finance and real estate professor **Larry Schrenk** to provide expertise for its WalletLiteracy quiz and to highlight key takeaways from the test. **Schrenk** also provided advice for young people who are just beginning to manage their money, saying, "if 90 percent of my students did one thing, started saving for retirement as soon as they got a job, I would consider myself successful." (4/27)

### Which Presidential Candidate Is Winning the Twitter Vote?

**FORTUNE**

[Fortune](#) interviewed communication professor **Scott Talan** about Twitter's influence and use by political candidates. **Talan** explained that "everyone has to remember that social media is just one part of the campaign." (4/28)

### Why Doctors and Scientists Are So Anxious About the Rise of Pop Science

**Vox**

[Vox](#) spoke to communication professor **Declan Fahy** about the challenges scientist face communicating to a broad audience. **Fahy** said, "Oliver Sacks's book is one that has historically permeated science itself over the value of popular communication of scientific ideas." (4/27)

### Why Turkey Doesn't Use the Word 'Genocide' for Armenia



International service adjunct professor **Hrach Gregorian** appeared on [PBS' NewsHour](#) as a panelist to discuss why the term "genocide" to describe the mass killing of Armenians 100 years ago has sparked criticism and protest. (4/24)

### Who's Behind The Latest Ethnic Food Trend? Maybe It's a Government



For [NPR's \*The Salt\*](#) blog, international service scholar-in-residence **Johanna Mendelson Forman** explained middle power countries like Peru, Mexico and South Korea can achieve notoriety through soft power like gastro diplomacy. The article also mentioned last week's conference at the School of International Service that **Mendelson Forman** organized where culinary nation branding was one of the topics. (4/28)

### Why Do People Leave the Senior Executive Service?



Key Executive Leadership distinguished practitioner-in-residence **Bob Tobias** appeared on [Federal News Radio's \*In Depth\*](#) to discuss Office of Personnel Management exit surveys for senior executive service employees. The number one reason, as **Tobias** explained, was the toxic political environment followed by organizational structure and senior leadership. (4/27)

### Discussion about Vietnam War Literature



For [KQED-FM's \*The Big Read\*](#), history professor **Max Paul Friedman** talked about Tim O'Brien's literary work "The Things They Carried." **Friedman** commented on how the collection of short stories captures the experiences of soldiers who fought in the Vietnam War. (4/25)